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Director of Theatre: Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak

Acknowledgements

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Kennedy Theatre is a member of the Hawai‘i State Theatre Council.



Waikiki Parc Hotel, Hospitality Sponsor for the Arts at University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Visit www.HittingTheStage.com for information on Hawaii’s Theatre scene.

Blithe Spirit is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturges, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels. For more information: www.kennedy-center.org/education/actf/home.html



Front of House Information

For large print programs, assistive listening devices or any other accessibility requests please contact a House Manager or call the Kennedy Theatre Box Office at 956-7655.

To arrange a Campus Security Escort from any two points on campus, please see a House Manager.

As a courtesy to your fellow audience members and to our performers, please remember that eating, drinking, photography and use of cell phones and other electronic devices is not allowed inside the theatre. Please take a moment to turn off any sound or light emitting devices.

The video and/or recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.

Lost and Found, call the Box Office at 956-7655.

Visit us on the web at <http://www.hawaii.edu/kennedy>
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KENNEDY THEATRE MAINSTAGE 2014-2015 SEASON



by **Noël Coward**
directed by **Paul T. Mitri**

UNIVERSITY of HAWAI‘I
MĀNOA

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Artistic Staff

Director Paul T. Mitri
Scenic & Properties Designer Jennifer Eccles*
Costume & Makeup Designer Amber Lehua
Lighting Designer Brian Shevelenko
Sound Designer Rick Greaver
Assistant Costume Designer Hannah Schauer Galli

Cast of Characters

(In order of appearance)

Edith Rachael Uyeno
Ruth Condomine Karissa J. Murrell Myers*
Charles Condomine Timothy Callais*
Dr. Bradman Kevin C. K. Berg
Mrs. Bradman Janna Rose Shields
Madame Arcati Sharon R. Garcia Doyle*
Elvira Kyle Scholl*

*In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Fine Arts Degree

SETTING
The living room in Charles Condomine’s home in Kent, England, 1941.

ACT I
Scene 1- A summer’s evening
Scene 2- The next morning

Intermission

ACT II
Scene 1- Late the following afternoon
Scene 2- Early evening, a few days later
Scene 3- After dinner, a few days later
Scene 4- Several hours later

Blithe Spirit is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

Smoke effects and real ghosts will be used in this production.

Director’s Notes

Written in seven days, and only needing two lines cut (according to Coward himself), *Blithe Spirit* is a theatrical classic that has managed to be resurrected successfully many times. The play attracts top actors, such as the recent revival with Angela Lansbury. It’s a wonderful challenge for actors, to wrap their mouths around these Coward witticisms, and it has proven a great comedic training ground for our UH students.

But there’s another reason to do this play — it’s charming entertainment. Coward wrote it when Britain was in the middle of World War II, and he knew that people needed a diversion — to be taken away from the literal bombardment in their daily lives. One critic said, “*Blithe Spirit* is Coward’s personal victory over Hitler.” For us too, given grisly images in the news almost daily, it can’t hurt to take a moment to unwind, have a glass of sherry, and “laugh at them...laugh at everything.” Indeed, I think one of the marks of great comic writers is the ability to make fun of themselves as well as their satiric targets. In Coward’s façade of cosmopolitan manners, we can see glimpses of ourselves and our own foibles, the mistakes we’ve made and what we might go through to rectify them.

Paul T. Mitri

About the Playwright

Noël Coward was born in 1899 in a London suburb, and later became one of the English language’s prime authors. As a playwright, he wrote over 50 plays, but he is known for a few that became stalwarts of the theatrical repertoire: *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, *Present Laughter*, and of course, *Blithe Spirit*. Coward carefully cultivated a public persona that added flippancy to fashion. First denied knighthood by Winston Churchill (although Churchill was a huge fan), he eventually became Sir Noël Coward in 1969, a few years before his death. Master of the one-liner, some of his best include:

“**Television is for appearing on, not looking at.**”
“**I can take any amount of criticism so long as it is unqualified praise.**”
“**I’ve sometimes thought of marrying...and then I’ve thought again.**”
“**I can’t sing, but I know how to, which is quite different.**”
And his advice to the actors:
“**Speak clearly, don’t bump into the furniture.**”

Production Staff

Stage Manager Rhonda Bell
Light Board Operator Serina Dunham
Sound Board Operator Dixie Castillo
Master Electrician Chikako Omoso
Electricians Falcon Aguirre, Kelsey Peacock, and students from THEA 101, 221, and 345
Stage Crew Justin Fragiao, Misty Mollena, Darlene “Cap” Tomas
Set Construction Crew Falcon Aguirre, Daren Crisostomo, Jennifer Eccles, Justin Fragiao, Maseeh Ganjali, Laurie Hubbs, Amy Johnson, Wailana Simcock, Darlene “Cap” Tomas
Staff Production Manager Rick Greaver
Staff Technical Director Gerald Kawaoka
Faculty Design Consultants DeAnne Kennedy, Brian Shevelenko, Hannah Schauer Galli
Staff Costume Shop Manager Andrew Baker, Kelsie Bartolome, Kari Begay, Keanu Harrold-Ka’aihue, Katie Patrick
Costume Construction Crew Calli Brennan
Wardrobe Supervisor Jessica Dzienkowski, Taylor Purvis, Alex Reis, Anna Thronas Loganbill
Dressers Calli Brennan, Katie Patrick
Make-up Artists

